

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**FINAL  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**on the**

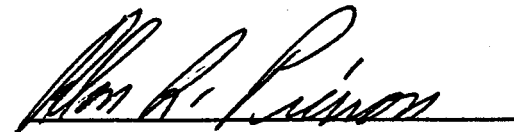
**CAVE GULCH-BULLFROG-WALTMAN  
NATURAL GAS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

**Natrona County, Wyoming**

**June 1997**

**Prepared By:**

This Environmental Impact Statement was prepared by *Holsan Environmental Planning* and *Hayden-Wing Associates* environmental consulting firms, with the guidance, participation, and independent evaluation of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The BLM, in accordance with Federal regulation 40 CFR 1506.5(a) & (b), is in agreement with the findings of the analysis and approves and takes responsibility for the scope and content of this document.



Wyoming State Director

# **Cave Gulch-Bullfrog-Waltman Natural Gas Development Project**

**Natrona County, Wyoming**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

☐ Draft

☒ Final

### **Lead Agency:**

U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management

### **Cooperating Agencies:**

None

### **Counties That Could Be Directly Affected:**

Natrona County, Wyoming

### **Abstract:**

The Final EIS in combination with the previously released Draft EIS and associated technical support documents analyze a proposal by the Cave Gulch-Bullfrog-Waltman operators to continue to drill additional development wells in their leased acreage within the Cave Gulch-Bullfrog-Waltman natural gas development area (approximately 25,093 acres) of central Wyoming. The Cave Gulch-Bullfrog-Waltman operators include Barrett Resources Corporation, Chevron USA Production Company, Marathon Oil Company, Prima Oil and Gas Company, and other oil and gas companies (collectively referred to as the Operators).

The Cave Gulch-Bullfrog-Waltman project is located in Natrona County, Wyoming. The project area is generally located within Townships 36 and 37 North (T36-37N), Ranges 86 and 87 West (R86-87W), 6th Principal Meridian. The area is accessed by U.S. Highway 20/26 west from Casper, Wyoming to Waltman, Wyoming. Access to the interior of the project area is provided by Natrona County Road No. 104 north from Waltman, and an existing road network developed to service prior and ongoing drilling and production activities.

The Operators propose to drill and develop approximately 160 natural gas wells on 107 well sites over the next ten-year planning period (1996-2006) within the Cave Gulch-Bullfrog-Waltman Natural Gas Development area. The proposed development is in addition to approximately 42 wells that have been drilled and developed or abandoned in the project area. The precise number of additional wells, locations of the wells, and timing of drilling associated with the proposed natural gas development project would be directed by the success of development drilling and production technology, and economic considerations such as the cost of development of leases within the project area with marginal profitability.

This EIS analyzes the impacts of the Proposed Action, alternatives to the Proposed Action, and the No Action Alternative. The EIS describes the physical, biological, cultural, historic, and socioeconomic resources in and surrounding the project area. The focus for impact analysis was based upon resource issues and concerns identified during public scoping.

Potential impacts of concern from development are to recreation and visual impacts associated with the South Bighorn /Redwall National Backcountry Byway; raptor breeding and nesting habitat and populations; special status plant and wildlife species; soil erosion and sediment increases within the project area; impacts to air quality; socioeconomic impacts to Natrona County; and cumulative effects.

**Other Environmental Review or Consultation Requirements:**

This EIS, in compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (as amended), includes the Biological Assessment for the purpose of identifying any endangered or threatened species which are likely to be affected by the proposed action.

**Lead Agency Contact:**

For further information, contact Kate Padilla at the Casper District Office, (307) 261-7603.

**EIS Contact:**

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**Date EIS Made Available to EPA and Public:**

<b>Draft:</b>	<b>February, 1997</b>
<b>Final:</b>	<b>June 17, 1997</b>
<b>Final EIS Comments Must Be Received By:</b>	<b>July 20, 1997</b>